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396 NEW CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

COVID-19 / DEC 31 2020 07:46 PM / BYEDHAT STAFF / 2 COMMENTS / READS 120

By [edhat staff](#)

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department reports 396 new cases of COVID-19 on the final day of 2020.

There are currently 1,456 active cases within the community. Of those, 135 are hospitalized including 34 are in the intensive care unit (ICU).

There were 3 deaths reported on Thursday. The individuals resided in the regions of Santa Barbara and unincorporated Mission Canyon, Lompoc and the communities of Mission Hills and Vandenberg Village, and the City of Santa Maria. Two individuals were over 70 years of age and one was between 50-69 years old. Two individuals had underlying medical conditions and one death was associated with an outbreak at a congregate facility.

There was an additional death reported on Wednesday. The individual was over 70 years old with underlying medical conditions and resided in the Unincorporated areas of the Goleta Valley. The death was associated with an outbreak at a congregate facility.

There have now been 160 deaths in 2020 directly related to the COVID-19 virus.

The Public Health Department continues to state that the majority of infections, and subsequently the deaths, are due to people ignoring the rules and gathering outside of their household. This allows the virus to spread which is then contracted by someone who cannot fight it off, and dies.

Santa Barbara County's ICU availability is 4.4%, meaning there is a nominal amount of space available for the inevitable amount of people who will get sick in the coming weeks due to unprohibited gatherings during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Public health officials, doctors, and scientists vigorously urge everyone to stay home, wear a mask, and wash their hands to prevent spreading and catching this contagious and deadly virus.

For more information on data visit <https://publichealthsb.org/status-reports/>

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RHS

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